

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 ACDA-07 IO-13 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/091 W

-----180620 089517 /23-12

R 180500Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3844

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 02000

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: HAN SUYIN ON THE PRC

1. HAN SUYIN, WHOM DPO HAD KNOWN ON EARLIER ASSIGNMENT IN SINGAPORE, CALLED AT THE OFFICE FEBRUARY 15 AND PASSED ON FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON PRC.

2. RUMORS TO THE CONTRARY, TENG HSIAO-PING HAS NOT YET BEEN OFFERED ANY POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY. HE WILL BE REHABILITATED, BUT THE PROCESS MAY TAKE SOME TIME BECAUSE THE LEADERSHIP MUST BE SURE TENG'S REHABILITATION WILL NOT GENERATE UNEXPECTED OPPOSITION.

3. ACCORDING TO HAN, THERE ARE TWO SPECIFIC REASONS FOR THE LEADERSHIP'S CAUTION. THE APRIL 7 STATEMENT CHARGED HIM NOT MERELY WITH CONTRADICTIONS AMONG THE PEOPLE BUT FOR "ADVERSARY CONTRADICTIONS" (SIC) WHICH SHE SAID IS A MORE SERIOUS MATTER. SECONDLY, HER STATEMENT DURING
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PUBLIC LECTURE THE PREVIOUS EVENING THAT TENG HAD OFFENDED MANY PEOPLE BY HIS BLUNTNESS WAS NOT THE WHOLE STORY. HE HAD ALSO KILLED SOME PEOPLE IN YUNNAN. THE LEADERSHIP MUST THEREFORE BE CERTAIN THEY KNOW WHO ALL THE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF TENG'S VICTIMS ARE IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE STRENGTH OF ANY OPPOSITION THEY MIGHT BE UP AGAINST.

4. THERE ARE STILL "ABOUT 4-5,000" GANG OF FOUR SYMPATHIZERS IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN CHINA. UNTIL THEY ARE REMOVED, THE LEADERSHIP MUST MOVE SLOWLY ON REHABILITATING AND PERSONNEL CHANGES. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, THE LEADERSHIP PREFERENCES THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR THEIR REMOVAL TO COME FROM BELOW. OF COURSE, IF AFTER REASONABLE PERIOD, THE PEOPLE IN ORGANIZATIONS FAIL TO ACT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT HESITATE TO HAVE THE PLA "SET THINGS STRAIGHT". SHE ADDED HOWEVER THAT THE LEADERSHIP WAS RELUCTANT TO DO THIS ANY MORE THAN NECESSARY.

5. TURNING TO US/PRC RELATIONS, HAN ASKED WHEN WE PLAN TO EXTEND MFN TO CHINA. SHE SAID THAT CHINA WAS LOOKING FOR ANY SHORT CUT TO DEVELOP THE ECONOMY AND WANTED IN ADDITION TO MFN, MORE TRADE AND TECHNOLOGU PROVIDED IT WAS WITHIN CHINESE MEANS AND WOULD NOT INVOLVE "PENETRATION". DIPLOMATIC REALTIONS AND THE TAIWAN ISSUE COULD WAIT.

6. EMPHASIZING CHINA'S PREOCCUPATION WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS, HAN SAID CHINA WAS NOT INTRESTED IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR. SOVIET UNION WAS PRETENDING TO BE REASONABLE IN ORDER TO EMBARRASS THE CHINESE WITH THE THIRD WORLD. THIS WOULD WORK IN THE SHORT TERM BUT NOT IN THE LONG TERM. THE CHINESE FOUND IT HARD TO TAKE THIRD WORLD OPINION SERIOUSLY ANYWAY WHEN EVEN ALBANIA, WHICH WAS DEPENDENT ON CONFIDENTIAL

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CHINESE AID FOR SO LONG, HAS BEGUN TO BE CRITICAL OF PRC POLICY. THE CHINESE ATTITUDE NOW IS THAT IF THE ALBANIANS WANT HELP, THEY CAN CRAWL TO THE RUSSIANS FOR IT.

7. YEH CHIEN-YING HAD TOLD HER THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE PRESSING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO TURN VIETNAM INTO THEIR BASE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND HAVE RECENTLY SENT BACK A NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE STUDENTS TRAINED IN THE USSR. THE CHINESE ARE NOT CONCERNED HOWEVER BECAUSE VIETNAM IS NO THREAT TO CHINA. IT MIGHT THREATEN THAILAND BUT "THAT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY; YOU TRIED TO GIVE IT TO US AND WE ARE GIVING IT BACK".

8. COMMENT: HAN TENDS TO DISTORT WHAT SHE HEARS. HER COMMENTS PROBABLY REFLECT CONVERSATIONS SHE HAD IN THE PRC BUT WE DOUBT THE CHINESE WOULD STATE THEIR VIEWS TO HER IN SUCH STARK TERMS. MOST INTRESTING WAS THE IMPLIED SUGGESTION THAT TENG

COULD BE REHABILITATED WITHOUT BEING GIVEN A POSITION
OF RESPONSIBILITY. IN THROAWAY REMARK
ON LEVING, HAN COMMENTED THAT ALL PERSONS REHABILITATED
WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE GIVEN POSITIONS, BUT WILL
HAVE TO BE SATISFIED WITH HAVING THEIR GOOD NAMES
RESTORED. END COMMENT.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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